

## REMARKS

Claim 1 is directed to a portable support adapted to rest on a seat and recites a base member having a top surface, bottom surface and sides with the bottom surface being substantially devoid of any protrusions such that the base member is adapted to rest on a seat without any protrusion tearing or harming the seat and allowing the base member to conform to the seat. In Boyer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,967,864) there is no base member devoid of protrusions as recited in claim 1. Boyer's base (or seat) 16 has mounting brackets 76 that could tear or mar a seat and thus Boyer's base is not adapted to rest on a seat. For at least this reason Boyer et al. does not anticipate claim 1.

Claim 10 is dependent from claim 1 and further requires straps. There are no straps in Boyer et al.

Claims 3, 4 and 17 are dependent from claim 1 and avoid Boyer et al for at least the reasons noted above. Additionally, nothing in Boyer et al. teaches or suggests that the device as recited in claim 3 does not exceed ten pounds. Boyer et al's device is clearly heavy to enable a person to be seated and move (see wheels 40, handles 86, etc.) and is not less than ten pounds as is the device of claim 3. Claim 17 requires a non-skid material on the base bottom surface. There is nothing in Boyer et al. that would teach or suggest the use of non-skid material on the bottom of the base.

New claim 26 is dependent on claim 1 and recites a back support and pocket for insertion and removal of a hot/cold pack container. The subject matter of claim 26 is not taught or suggested by the prior art of record.

Claim 18 is directed to a portable support adapted to rest on a seat and recites first and second base members having a top surface, bottom surface and sides with the bottom surface being substantially devoid of any protrusions such that the base members are adapted to rest on a seat without any protrusion tearing or harming the seat and allowing the bottom of the base members to conform to the seat. In Boyer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,967,864) there are no base members devoid of protrusions as recited in claim 18. For at least this reason Boyer et al. does not anticipate claim 18. Claim 18 further requires adjustable supports to vary the distance between the first and second supports and the arm rests. Boyer et al does not disclose adjustable supports as recited in claim 18.

Claims 21 and 22 are dependent from claim 18 and avoid Boyer et al for at least the reasons noted above. Additionally, nothing in Boyer et al. teaches or suggests the device as recited in claim 21, i.e., the use of non-skid material on the bottom of the base.

New claim 27 is dependent on claim 18 and recites a back support and pocket for insertion and removal of a hot/cold pack container. The subject matter of claim 27 is not taught or suggested by the prior art of record.

Claim 1 is rejected over Hunter (U.S. Patent No. 2,625,987). In Hunter there are no telescoping tubular supports affixed to the base member and to arm rests as recited in claim 1. Hunter's arm rests are not adjustable. Haley (U.S. Patent No. 2,659,423) is relied on for a teaching of adjustable arm rests. Haley does not teach or suggest telescoping arm rests and it would not have been obvious to make the arm rests in Hunter to be adjustable much less to provide telescoping tubular supports. For at least this reason Hunter and Haley do not obviate claim 1.

Each of claims 2-4, 10-12, 14-15, 17 and 24-26 depend from claim 1 and avoid Hunter and/or Haley for the reasons noted above. Hunter does not teach or suggest a device that does not exceed ten pounds (applicant's claim 3), that has straps (applicant's claim 10), that has holes in the telescoping supports (applicant's claim 24), that has a pin (applicant's claim 25) or a back support and pocket (applicant's claim 26). For all of these reasons these claims avoid the prior art of record.

Claim 18 avoids Hunter and Haley since neither Hunter nor Haley teach or suggest a portable vertebrae decompression support device comprising base members in combination with adjustable supports as recited in claim 18. Dependent claims 19-22 and 27 are allowable for at least these same reasons. Additionally, claim 27 requires a back support coupled to at least one of the adjustable supports, the back support having at least one pocket for insertion and removal of a hot/cold pack container.

Claims 5-9, 13, 16 and 23 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-4, 10-12, 14-15 and 17-22 and 24-27 is, respectfully, requested.

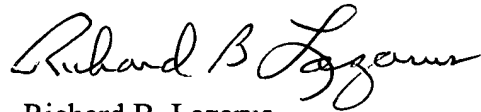
A proposed drawing change to Fig. 6 accompanies this amendment. The examiner is requested to approve the drawing change.

Serial No. 10/023,977

The examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if there are any matters that require further action.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and that shortages in fees, if any, be charged, or any overpayment in fees credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg, Deposit Account No. 02-1010 (31462-38242).

Respectfully submitted,  
BARNES & THORNBURG LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard B. Lazarus".

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